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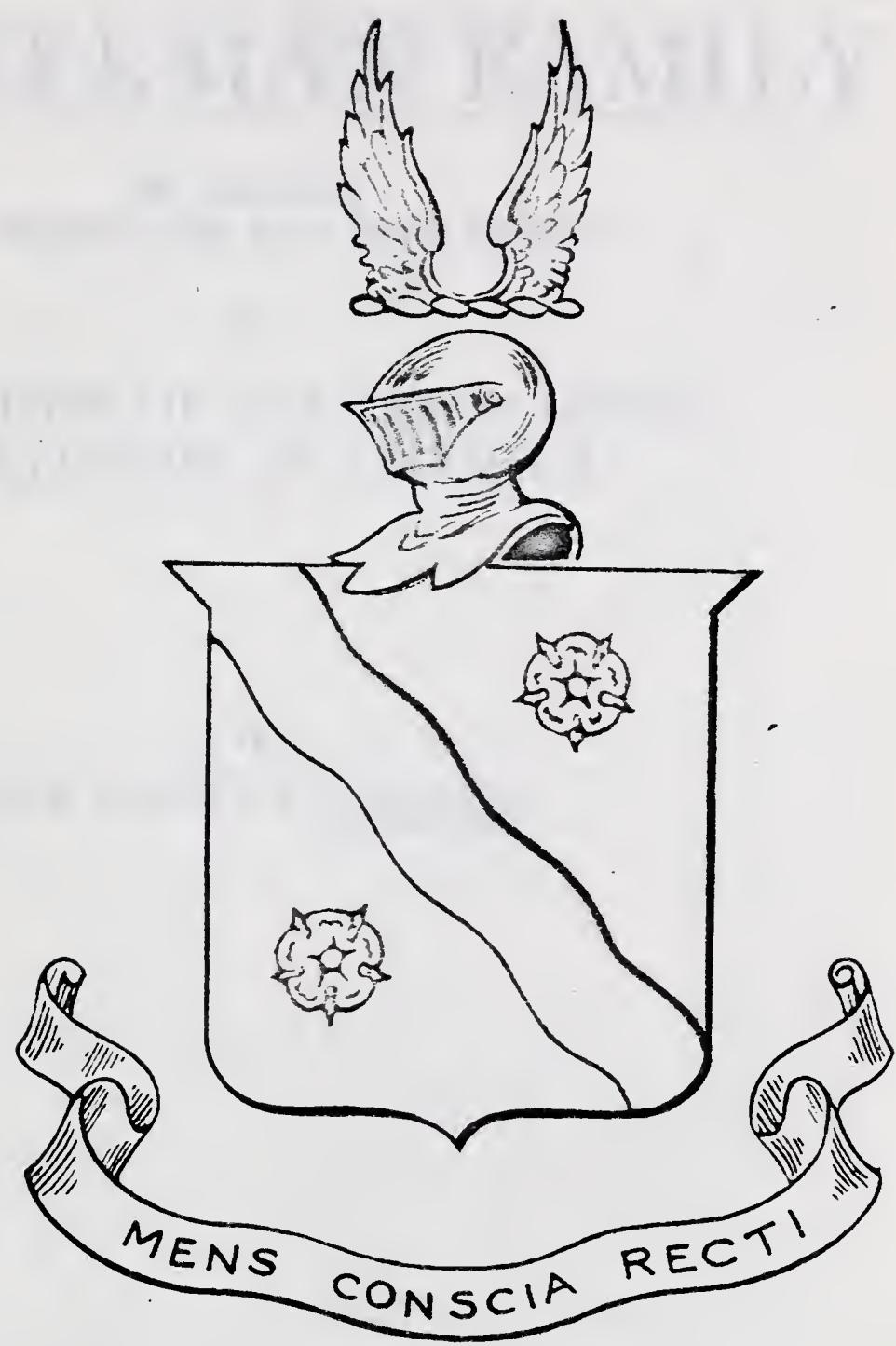




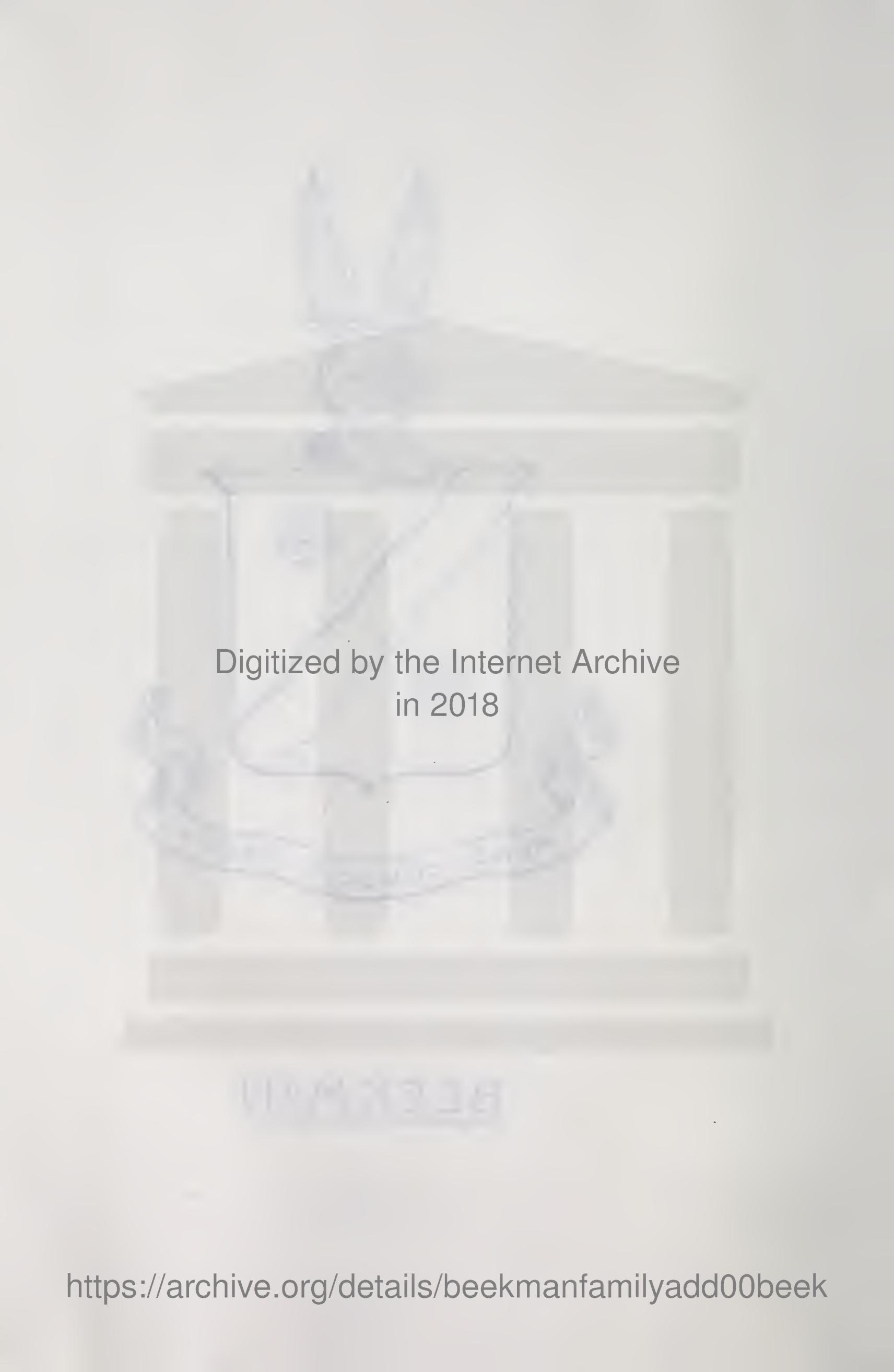








BEEKMAN

A very faint, grayscale watermark-like image of an old document is visible in the background. It features a detailed map of a landscape with various geographical features and a grid overlay. Below the map, there is some handwritten-style text that appears to be part of a larger document or ledger.

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# THE BEEKMAN FAMILY

AN ADDRESS  
READ BEFORE THE NEW YORK BRANCH

OF

THE ORDER OF COLONIAL LORDS  
OF MANORS IN AMERICA

BY  
MRS. WILLIAM B. BEEKMAN

BALTIMORE  
1925



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## THE BEEKMAN FAMILY

On the eastern shore of the Hudson River, is a tract of land extending twenty miles north from Fishkill, covered now by many towns and villages, and all of this country belonged to the Beekman family, in the early days, when New York was a colony, and not a state. As early as 1695 a patent was asked for by Henry Beekman, but not until 1722 was the land made over entirely, and then it was to the son of the original petitioner also a Henry Beekman. During the period between 1695 and 1722, it is continually mentioned in the official records sometimes as twenty miles long, by four wide, sometimes as being equal to an English county, in extent, and sometimes as greater or of less size than the twenty by four miles. The records of the owners, however, call it more than two hundred thousand acres, and that we can accept as proof that though the patent which gave the land conveyed no manorial rights, it was equal in extent to many of the manors.

William Beekman was the first of the family to come to this country. He sailed from Holland on Christmas day 1646 with Governor Stuyvesant and arrived in New Amsterdam early in May 1647. The ship was the Princess, that ill-fated vessel which was wrecked on the coast of Wales on its return, most of those on board being lost. The six months spent on the voyage to this country does not seem to have been passed entirely in battling with the stormy Atlantic, for under Stuyvesant's orders they touched at the West Indian Islands and once on the South American coast, places where Stuyvesant had served as Governor, and some traditions say that he did not sail from Holland but boarded the vessel there. This chance to see the world probably did not displease his young companion, for Beekman was only twenty-three years old, and no doubt quite ready for adventure.

The records say that he came from Sutphen, in Holland, and there his father had lived for some years, but oddly enough, though his descendants in this country have always been called of Dutch descent, the only one of their ancestors to be born in



Holland is this same William. His father, Hendrick, was born in Cologne, not a German city at that time, but a free city, belonging to no country and ruled by a Bishop Elector, who was appointed by the Pope. His father, Gerardus Beekman, a highly educated man, and son of a well-known citizen, took too prominent a part in the building of Mulheim, a refuge for the protestants of Cologne, for his own good. The protestants of Cologne came in hordes to populate it, and brought with them most of the commerce of that city. This was at the time of the starting of the thirty years war, and the natural result of its activity was the burning and sacking of Mulheim, and the flight of Gerardus to quieter surroundings. He found them under the protestant rulers of the Duchy of Cleves or that of Brandenburg, and the rest of his life was spent in literary work of which a French poetical paraphrase of the Psalms of David still remains, and as secretary to the electoral college, in Cleves or Emmerich, and in the latter city he died in 1730.

His son Hendrick had remained in Cologne for some time after his father had left, but before 1620 he too decided he could not stay, and quite alone, for he was a widower, he started to make his way down the Rhine to Holland, that refuge in the seventeenth century for all protestants. He appears to have left a son by his first marriage in Cologne, but in Sutphen he married a second time, choosing the daughter of a clergyman of that city, named Wilhelmus Baudertius. It was the fashion in those days to latinise the names of learned men, as Smetius for Smith, or Michaelius for Michael, and it seems most probable that his name was really Baudert, and that the lady's name was Marie Baudert, showing that she and her father were by descent French rather than Dutch.

What we know of this early history of the Beekmans is taken from an old paper in the family, compiled and sent by a nephew in Holland, to William Beekman in 1702, and though there are many faults in its dates, it seems clear that the facts are true, and that the family really came from that part of the Rhenish country which was afterwards divided between France, Belgium and Germany, and this is proved by the fact that the arms of the family are not found in the heraldic college of Holland, but they do appear in those of France, and of both Brabant and Hainault, now provinces of Belgium. To trace the histories of families settled in New York in early colonial times it is necessary to go to the official records. Unless the earliest ancestor



on this side of the water was English, there appear to be no diaries, or accounts of their adventures, and it is only in the state records that one can find an account on which the personality of the Beekman family can be built, for they apparently talked but little and wrote not at all.

After the marriage of Hendrick to Marie Baudert, or Badertius, he became the father of five sons, the second of whom was William. His mother died in 1631, and while he was still a boy, his father married for the third time. Whether this made him unsettled as he grew up, or whether he had a natural love of adventure and wandering, we do not know, but when still a young man he left his home for a new land. Arrived in New Netherlands he seemed to be ready to settle down as an inhabitant and to do his part in the government and growth of the colony. In 1652 he served as one of the nine men, a most important post for a young man of twenty-nine. He had been schepen or alderman of New Amsterdam in 1650 and rose to be president of the board by 1657. He seems to have avoided the continual quarrels with the government, although in 1653 he served on a convention called to put matters right, and in 1654 with Van Cortlandt and LaMontagne he drew up a plan of fortification against Indian attacks on the city and the nearby villages. In 1649 he married and bought land in the little city. In the marriage register his wife is called Caterina de Boots, but the spelling was not to be depended on in those days, and as she was the daughter of Frederic Hendrikse de Boog, we may decide that as her name, and as she had an aunt in Schenectady, and her father owned a vessel which he sailed between New Orange and New Amsterdam, it seems probable that the family lived further up the Hudson than the Island of Manhattan. In 1650 William added to his land a farm on the upper end of the island, which was destined to be the site of Harlem village. This farm had been the property of Isaac deForest and on it he had built, near what is now 126th Street, a dwelling and a large tobacco house. At the time of Beekman's purchase, it was probably without buildings on it, as in 1643 the Indians had overrun that part of the country, destroying all in their path. I fancy that this farm was found to be too far from town to cultivate, and in 1652 Beekman bought another farm at Corlears Hook, just where the Island widens on the East River, and still to be recognized by a street called Corlear, in our built-up city. It must have been a charming spot in those days, lying on a



point covered with trees and fields and extending into the East River. Now it is described as a place in which hawkers sell their ware in every tongue, where a little Italy contends with a Russian and Polish ghetto, where a little corner of China is next a section of Greece, and a few Americans cling to their homes on the waterside, for there the rapid current from Hell Gate still rushes by their doorsteps, the only thing unchanged since William Beekman farmed the land. It is possible he meant to settle as a farmer and was sorry to give up the idea when Governor Stuyvesant decided otherwise. But the Governor was in trouble and felt that he needed the aid of an "expert and respectable person," as Beekman is described in the records. The Dutch had not been content with a settlement on the Hudson. They were ambitious to have a colony on Delaware Bay, called by them South River. As early as 1648 settlers were sent, and although the Swedes were already in possession, they at once built a fort and started a town called Altona. From the first the quarrels with the Swedes were continual and in 1654 they stormed and took Altona fort and town holding it for a year. The chief commissary of the two, in charge, called Alrich, clamored for reinforcements, especially as there were continual rumors of a coming attack by the English from Maryland. No more troops arrived, but in 1657 William Beekman was sent to settle matters if possible, and to help gain this end he was in 1658 appointed Vice Director of New Netherlands, thereby having superior rank over the two commissaries already there. To this office was added that of Commissioner of Indian affairs, and as the Vice Directorate gave him the ordering of law, finance and the military movements, he had all in his hands.

His task proved hard, for there was a lack of food, and of money in the colony, and when soon after his arrival an outbreak of disease occurred, most of the six hundred colonists threatened to leave the town. The following year an embassy from Maryland arrived bearing a message addressed to the man called the pretended Governor of people on Delaware Bay, and commanding all the Dutch to move out at once. Beekman suggested that the whole embassy should be seized and imprisoned, but the two other commissaries were afraid of such decided action, and the English were allowed to leave unmolested. Who authorized the message sent in return is not mentioned in the records, but it settled the matter for the time,



as it suggested the question of ownership should be decided by their sovereigns in Europe. As Cromwell was then in power, and Lord Baltimore not at all in favor, this plan did not suit the English in Maryland and was at once refused.

The next move on their part was the arrival at Altona of Lord Calvert, the son of Lord Baltimore, with a suite of twenty-five or six men. It happened at the time that as one of the commissaries was in Holland begging for more power, and one praying Stuyvesant for soldiers, Beekman was alone in charge. He greeted Lord Calvert as an honored guest and as such entertained him and his suite and sped them on their way back to Baltimore. In 1663, on the return of the other commissaries vested by the home government with absolute control of the colony, the government became so confused by these orders from Holland that William Beekman resigned his position and returned to New Amsterdam. Hardly a year had elapsed when the English stormed the fort, plundered and burnt the town, and the Dutch colony on the South River ceased to exist.

During the ten years that Beekman was on Delaware Bay, Stuyvesant had been having his own troubles nearer home. The Indians who had never been quite quiet since the rising in 1643 began to give real trouble, especially in the thickly wooded country, on the west side of the Hudson River. Apparently the reputation Beekman had gained at South River, where he had made friends with the Indians and persuaded them to sell him seed corn so that the starving Dutch could raise crops, decided the Governor to send him into the threatened country, and no sooner did he reach New Amsterdam than with the official appointment of Schout Fiscael and of Commissary, he was sent to Esopus, now known as Kingston. The Schout Fiscael of the Dutch was much like the High Sheriff of the English, and like that officer represented the Governor of the Country, and therefore the combining of these two offices gave him absolute power and control over a district extending from the Katskills to the Highlands at West Point, in which he was directed to still the Indians and to guard the settlers all through the miles of rough country. His arrival at Esopus coincided with the time that King Charles the second of England decided to give by royal grant most of what is now the United States, to his brother the Duke of York. In 1664 the new owner decided to make his ownership sure and did so by seizing all land settled on by any but the English, and thus the New





HENRY BEEKMAN; ONLY SON OF COLONEL HENRY AND JANET (LIVINGSTON)  
BEEKMAN; BORN 1722 DIED 1740

*Original in possession of John Henry Livingston of Clermont*





MARGARET (BEEKMAN) LIVINGSTON; ONLY DAUGHTER OF COLONEL HENRY AND  
JANET (LIVINGSTON) BEEKMAN AND WIFE OF JUDGE ROBERT R.  
LIVINGSTON OF CLERMONT; BORN 1724; DIED 1800

*Original by John Wollaston, Jr., in possession of the estate of the late Robert R. Livingston  
of Northwood.*



Netherlands fell under English rule, and the entrance of four men-of-war manned by a couple of hundred men, into New York Harbor, was all that was needed to change New Amsterdam into New York. Nowhere was there any trouble except in Esopus. A company of English troops was sent there, and it is hard to decide whether the commander was untactful, or the inhabitants insurgent, so filled with prejudice on both sides are the accounts, but the people were against the soldiers until the rebellion ended in a conflict on the village green where the English said the servants of the Schout fought with the townspeople, but in the end the Governor gave Beekman the credit of efforts to stop the fight, and he was continued in his office. He took the oath of allegiance to the English in 1664 and all the official papers in the years after that oath, especially those in regard to the Indian policy, are signed by him as well as by the English governor. In 1671 he resigned his offices at Esopus and retired to New York, and in 1676 he bought the land of Thomas Hall with a house facing the East River, and a brew house on it. What is now called the Swamp was part of the property and a good-sized orchard long called Beekman's orchard even after the street bearing his name was put through. Here he lived much respected and looked up to, the records say, until his death in 1707. He left a rather interesting will in which he quotes the advice given by Joseph to his brethren, that they should not fall by the way, in this life, but keep faith and a good conscience, for a good name is better than riches or honor. William Beekman left a large family of children, but we will follow the fortunes of only two of his sons. His eldest, named Henry, married and lived and died in Esopus where he managed a large grant of land said to be some sixteen miles square, on Esopus Creek. On the opposite side of the Hudson the Indians had sold land to three Dutchmen, and the share of one of them Henry bought. In 1716 he died and his son Henry, called Colonel in the New York records, added to this land until as has been said earlier in this paper, the grant covered twenty miles along the River, running from the Rombouts precinct at Fishkill to the Livingston manor lands. Colonel Henry married Janet Livingston, who died quite young leaving two children, a son called Henry and a daughter Margaret. The son Henry was sent to Holland for his education and there he died at eighteen years of age, leaving his sister Margaret to inherit the vast estate. She grew up in Flatbush under the care of her Aunt, Angelica Livingston,



and proved herself a very remarkable woman. She married at eighteen, a cousin, Robert R. Livingston, and was the mother of a large family of children who all were persons of distinction. Chancellor Livingston was her son, and Mrs. Montgomery, whose brave husband was killed before Quebec, was her daughter. After her father's death she managed her great property and all that the growing settlements on it entailed, with justice and energy, and dying in 1800, the great grant to a Beekman passed into the Livingston family, thus ending the history of the Beekmans as landed proprietors.

William Beekman's second son, Gerardus, is called in the records a doctor of physic. As was the habit of the family, he was sent to Leyden or Gottingen to study for his profession, and was probably still there in 1671 when his father left Kingston for New York. His rather exciting career after his return to this side of the water began peacefully enough by service with the trainbands of Flatbush, a place which seems then to have been a favorite suburb of New York from the many families resident there. He was twenty-four years of age when he married Magdalen Abeel, the daughter of Stoffel Jansse Abeel of Albany, whose will, made in 1678 states that his daughter is seventeen years of age and already married, but the will must have been drawn up directly after the marriage, as it took place the same year.

As his father grew older, the management of the large property fell into the hands of Gerardus, and added to that in Flatbush and New York, he took an interest in the Harlem and Kingston lands and made several purchases of large tracts in New Jersey. One would think with such interests his time would have been fully occupied, but Gerardus, like his father, took a real interest in the government of the colony, and this led to his being involved in what is called the Leisler rebellion. It is understood now that this movement was a well-meant effort to stand by William of Orange, when with his English wife he mounted the throne of England. A proclamation to that effect was made by Leisler who was head of a committee of safety, but the English insisted afterwards that it was only made to the Dutch. That a Hollander should reign over them must have excited the Dutch inhabitants, while such excitement would rouse the English, who in that day of slow communication were probably not entirely sure why the change of rulers had come about. At all events feeling and excitement ran high, the





MAGDALEN ABEEL; WIFE OF GERARD BEEKMAN; BORN 1661; DIED SEPTEMBER  
14, 1730; MARRIED OCTOBER 25, 1677





**CERARD BEEKMAN; SON OF WILLIAM BEEKMAN AND CATHARINE DE BOUGH;  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL UNDER QUEEN ANNE, 1770 (COLONIAL  
GOVERNOR); BORN 1653; DIED OCTOBER 10, 1723; MARRIED  
MAGDALEN ABEEL OCTOBER 25, 1677**



two languages used by the two parties confused matters, and Gerardus Beekman, with his father, became members of the Committee of Safety, or the Council of Leisler, as it is called, intent on quieting the people before they came to war. But a new Governor, Sloughter, arrived from England, and being sure the whole matter was a rising against the government, he at once arrested Leisler's son-in-law, and Peterse Delanoy, with their escort of twelve soldiers who had been set to welcome him, and condemned them to death as traitors, others were added and condemned, on his arrival at his official residence and one of this number was Gerardus Beekman. As we know, both Leisler and Milburn, his son-in-law, were executed and the other prisoners, left under sentence of death. At this time Gerardus was thirty-six years of age, in the prime of life, and the father of six children, but he bravely stood by his opinions, with his friend Peterse Delanoy. Many efforts were made to save their lives. Petitions were sent to the governor, praising the characters of the two prisoners, and Magdalen Beekman made a personal appeal for her husband's life. At last the Governor was forced to some clemency, but rather than show himself mistaken, he offered the two men their lives on condition they confessed that they had been wrong. This they entirely refused to do and only by direct appeal to the King did they gain their liberty. This was in 1694-5 and by 1702 Gerardus was enough in favor to be appointed a member of the Governor's Council, a position which he held until his death in 1723. During this period many complaints were made by the Governor that only two members of the Council lived in New York and attended the meetings regularly; as one of these was Gerardus Beekman, much of the government of the colony must have fallen to him. Governor Lovelace died in 1709, and Beekman, who was president of the council at that time, assumed the duties of governor until the arrival of Hunter in 1710. Among the papers of the family are two letters from Queen Anne addressed to Gerardus as acting governor, asking him to find a place for three thousand refugees from the Palatinate, whom she was sending over. The first of these people arrived with Governor Hunter and as they were sent at once to the land owned by Henry Beekman on the Hudson, it seems as if Gerardus had arranged for them with his nephew. There the village of Rheinbeck sprang up, and the English government congratulated themselves on having a place where rosin pitch and pine



could be gotten for their naval vessels, and where they had work people to gather them.

As I have said, in 1723 Gerardus Beekman died, having lived a useful life to the infant city of New York. His wife lived seven years longer, and the portrait of her husband shows certain signs of having been painted after his death, by her desire, and at the same time as her own, in which she wears a widow's cap. In the family of ten children there were four sons, all of whom married and had children. The descendants of most of these, however, have either disappeared or the male line has died out. William, the second son, remained in New York and is the ancestor of the family known in that city. He was a physician like his father, and like him never practised. He married Catherine Peterse Delanoy whose name seems to make her the daughter of the friend of Gerardus, for the Dutch habit was to add the father's first name to the children's. She was, however, the child of Abraham Delanoy, the brother of Peterse, and it is possible that his name was given her for the reason that she grew up in her uncle's house and was treated as a daughter. Her mother, Juliana Tol, had been twice married, her first husband having been a Duykinck, son of the early Dutch artist in New York, and to her son Evert Duykinck, who inherited some of his grandfather's talent, are owing the earliest portraits in the family, one of which is that of Gerardus already spoken of, and in which he is portrayed dressed in what presumably are his robes of office as president of the Governor's Council. William does not seem to have taken the active interest in the practical politics of New York that his father and grandfather showed. He lived handsomely as silver and furniture still in the family show; his house being in Brugh or Bridge Street. His sons were carefully educated while his daughters married well. One of them, Cornelia by name, married William Walton and became mistress of the Walton house, the comfort and beauty of which was quoted in the English parliament as proof that New Yorkers were not poor. The sons, except two, remained unmarried, and judging from the remnants of their library left in the family, seem to have devoted themselves to art and literature. William Beekman died in 1770 and of the two married sons, only one, the second in age, left descendants of the name. This son was James, who was born in 1732, married Jane Keteltas and as a merchant in the city, added to his fortune. His home, so often spoken of in records of New York, was near what was then





CORNELIA BEEKMAN; DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM BEEKMAN AND CATHARINE  
PETERS DE LA NOY; BORN OCTOBER 4, 1708; DIED MAY 10, 1786;  
MARRIED WILLIAM WALTON JANUARY 27, 1731, NO ISSUE





WILLIAM BEEKMAN; SON OF GERARD BEEKMAN AND MAGDALEN ABEEL;  
BORN AUGUST 8, 1684; DIED APRIL 26, 1777; MARRIED CATHARINE  
PETERS DE LA NOY, OCTOBER 11, 1707



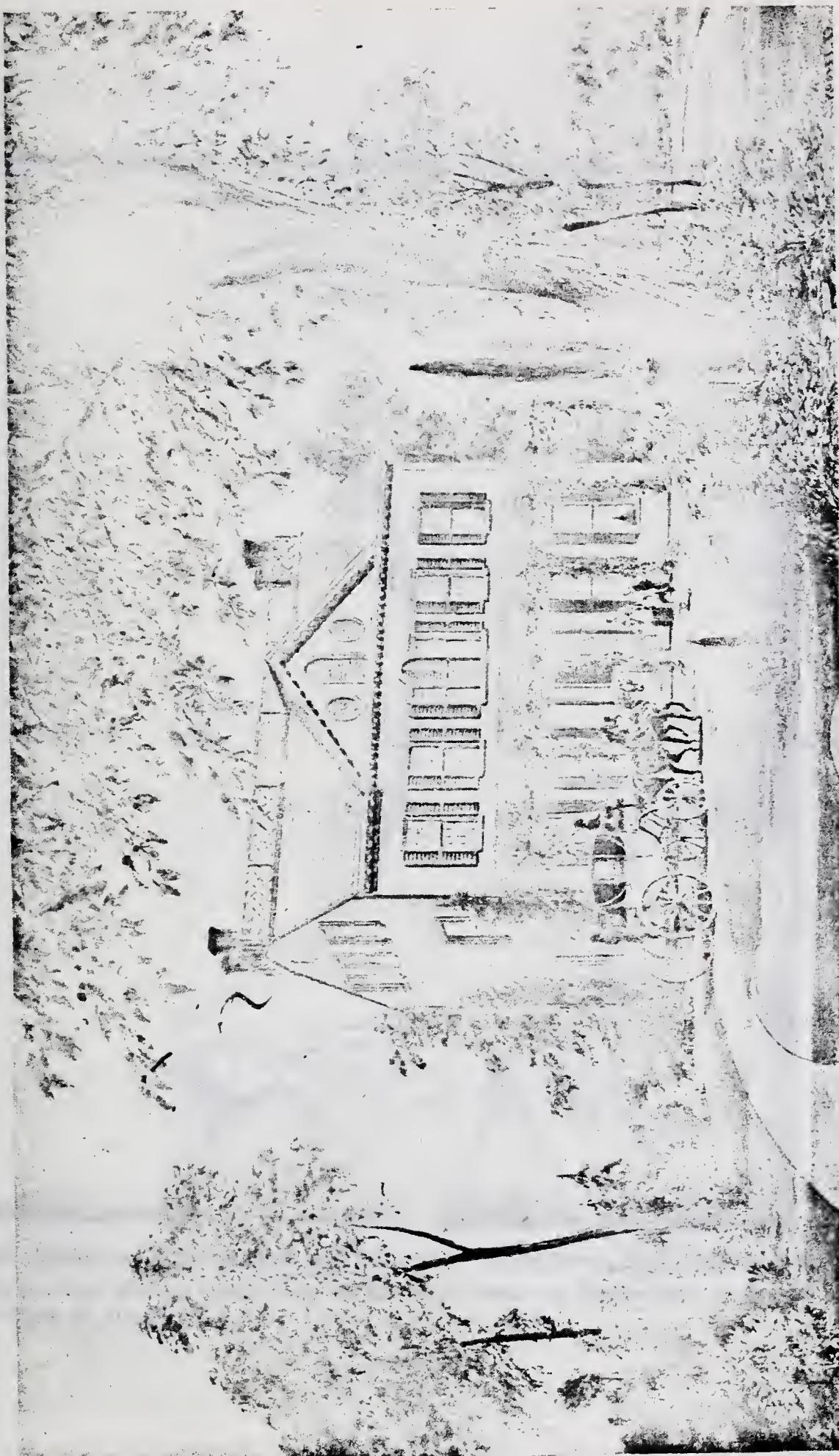
called Devoors Creek, but originally Mile Kill, over which was the Kissing Bridge of early New Amsterdam. The estate is now covered by Fiftieth Street and kept in mind by a school building called Beekman School. The history of this land, taken from various deeds held by the family, may not be uninteresting as part of the early history of New York. A piece of land on the East River, 150 rods wide, and extending from Dewtelle Bay, now called Turtle Bay, on the South, to the Saw Kill on the north was granted by Governor Lovelace in 1671 to a Captain John Manning. This man returned the land to the Governor, and Governor Andros in 1704 conveyed it to Jacobus Fabritius. He did not keep it, and from 1671 to 1739 it had passed to four different owners, ending in that year as the property of Nicholas Dyckman who sold it to David Devoor. This man seems to have been a speculator in real estate, from his will which leaves his heirs bits of land all over Manhattan Island, and on buying this East River property he divided it into lots each having frontage on the River, and sold them to various people. James Beekman bought lot number one on Turtle Bay and there he build the house mentioned in history as the headquarters of Lord Howe, where Andre stayed to receive his last orders before meeting Arnold, and where Nathan Hale is said to have been tried and condemned to death. Number two and three were held by C. Clopper, D. Devoor and T. Hurst, number four was sold to Rev. Provoost, and P. L. Hartman, numbers 5 and 6 to P. B. Van Zandt and William and Abraham Beekman; number 7 to J. Hardenbrock, and 8, 9, and 10 to David Provoost. These sales were made in 1760 and James Beekman at once began to build on his lot which he called Mount Pleasant, while his two elder brothers did the same on their property, calling it Rural Cove. Mount Pleasant was filled with beautiful furniture, and as the coverings of the sofas and chairs are Beauvais Tapestry, while the hangings are cartoons evidently the work of the school of Boucher, who designed for the Beauvais factories, it seems most probable that after his university career, James Beekman had traveled further in Europe and had been in France. The bachelor brothers, who bought part of lots 5 and 6, built a large house and also added to their land by purchase from the city, of part of the common lands just back of them. This property covered the ground just above the entrance to the Queensboro bridge and lying directly opposite Blackwells Island. The owners of this place being the elders of the family,



the house was filled with the oldest portraits, and much furniture and ornaments which were chiefly Dutch or Oriental, for the Hollanders imported from Japan and from China, when those countries were closed to the rest of the world.

On the death of the bachelor brothers of James, this property passed to two of his sons bearing the same names as the original owners—William and Abraham, but before they inherited the Revolutionary War had been fought, during which both places were in the hands of the British. None of the Beekmans fought in the war, but like most of the New Yorkers of wealth, sought another residence outside the British lines where James Beekman served on the New York committee of safety. He died in 1807 leaving a large property divided between his children, of whom only two sons had children—John and Gerard. At the death of its owners, Rural Cove passed to their younger brother, John, while Gerard, the youngest son of the family, inherited Mount Pleasant. John married Mary Elizabeth Goad Bedlow, and had a large family of children. Indeed he followed the family practice and had twelve sons and daughters, while Gerard, who married Catherine Saunders of Schenectady had but one son. One peculiarity of the family has been a desire on the part of a majority of the men to study medicine. From the first Gerardus, no generation has gone by without one or two physicians and even in the days when it was necessary to go to Europe for their degree, they were gotten in Leyden or Göttingen, but oddly enough much trouble as it took to gain the wished for power, they never practised. Not until after the Revolutionary War, when everyone was poor, did John Beekman turn to his profession to support his wife and family. Not very long ago, when the residence of his son in East Twentieth Street was broken up, a large barrel of Chincona bark in the garret was a reminder of his efforts to make use of his medical knowledge. He did not continue to use it, however, except perhaps in charity, but lived in comfort near Waverly Place on Broadway, during the winter, spending the summer months at Rural Cove. Mrs. Beekman, who as a child knew General Washington and was petted by him, seems to have been a woman of intellect and decision of character, and a story told of her is amusing. After the penitentiary was started on Blackwells Island in 1828, she was seated on the porch when an exhausted man in convict's clothes and dripping wet, suddenly appeared, having swum from the Island. He begged that she





MOUNT PLEASANT; BEEKMAN MANSION

Built by James Beekman, 50th Street and East River (now Beekman Place)

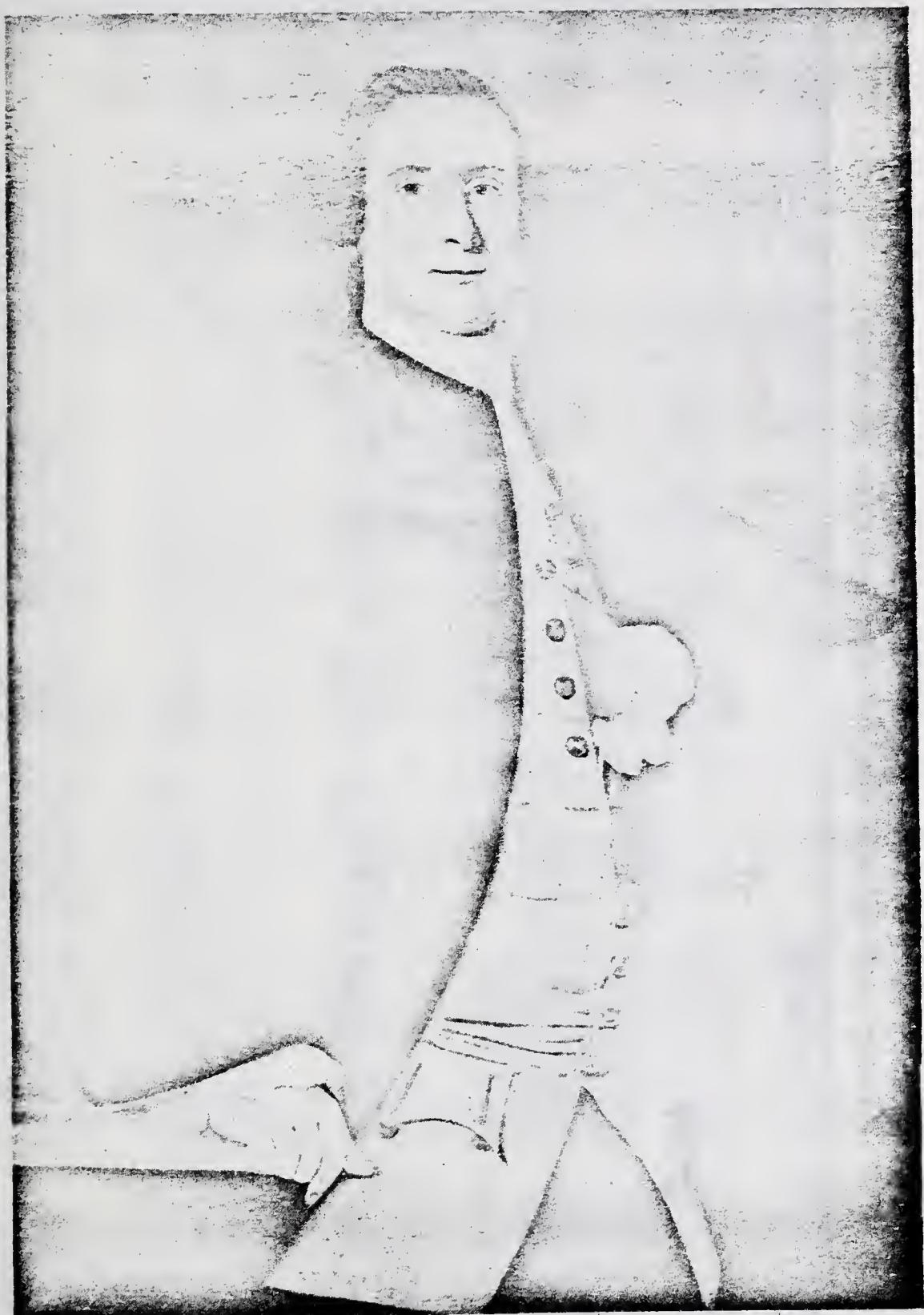




JAMES BEEKMAN; BORN MARCH, 1732; DIED ——; MARRIED JANE KETTLETAS

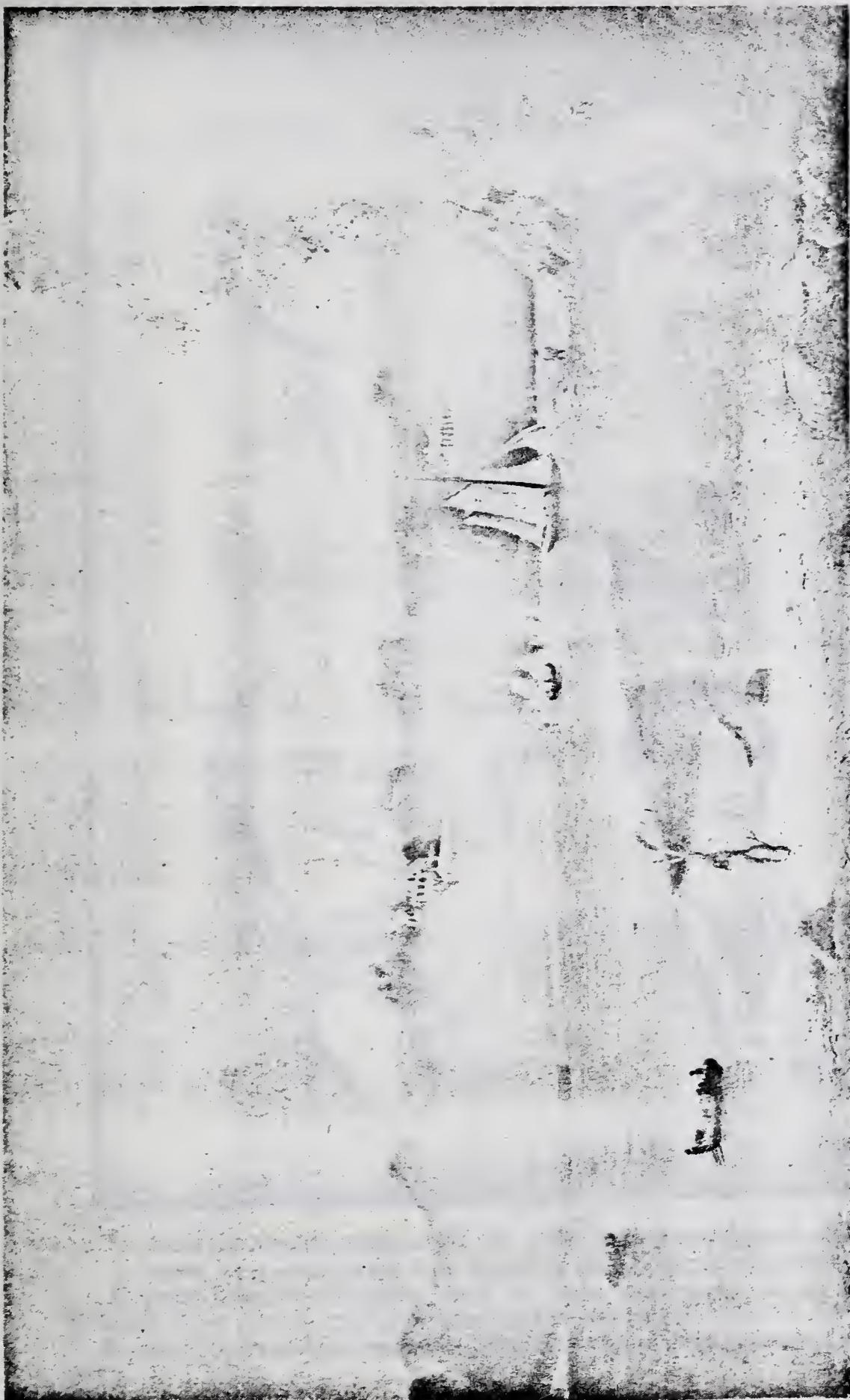
*Built Beekman Mansion at 50th Street and East River which was Headquarters of General Howe during the Revolution.*





WILLIAM BEEKMAN, JR.; SON OF WILLIAM BEEKMAN AND CATHARINE PETERS  
DE LA NOY; BORN APRIL 13, 1725; DIED OCTOBER 8, 1795; UNMARRIED

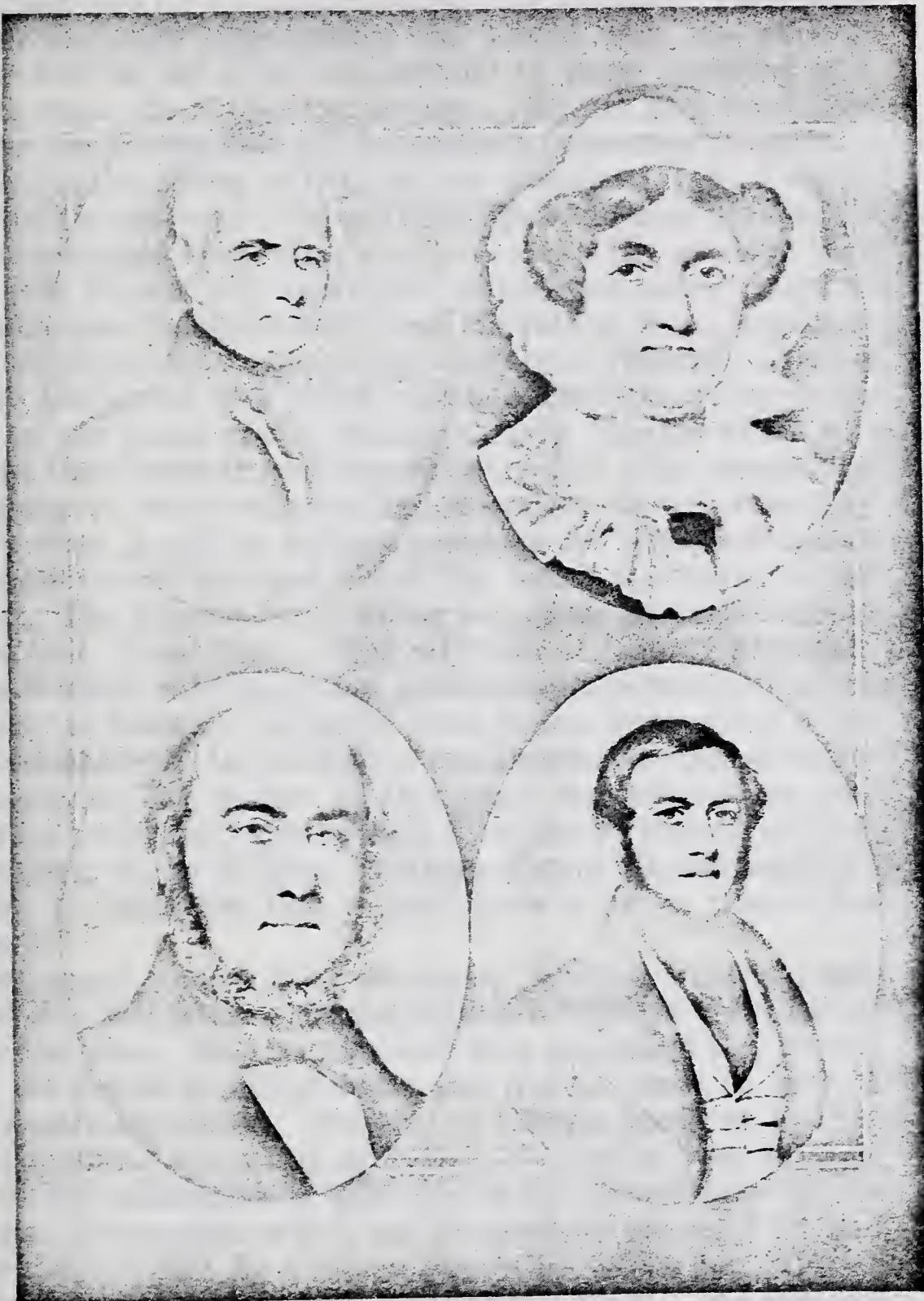




RURAL COVE; BEEKMAN MANSION; 60TH STREET AND EAST RIVER

*Built by Wm. and Abraham Beekman*





1. JOHN BEEKMAN; BORN APRIL 29, 1768; DIED DECEMBER 8, 1843.
2. MARY E. G. BEEKMAN, NEE BEDLOW (MRS. JOHN BEEKMAN).
3. JOHN CROSBY BEEKMAN; SON OF JOHN AND MARY E. G. BEEKMAN;  
GRANDSON OF JAMES AND JANE KETTLELAS BEEKMAN
4. WILLIAM FENWICK BEEKMAN; BORN AUGUST 4, 1809; DIED DECEMBER 19,  
1872.



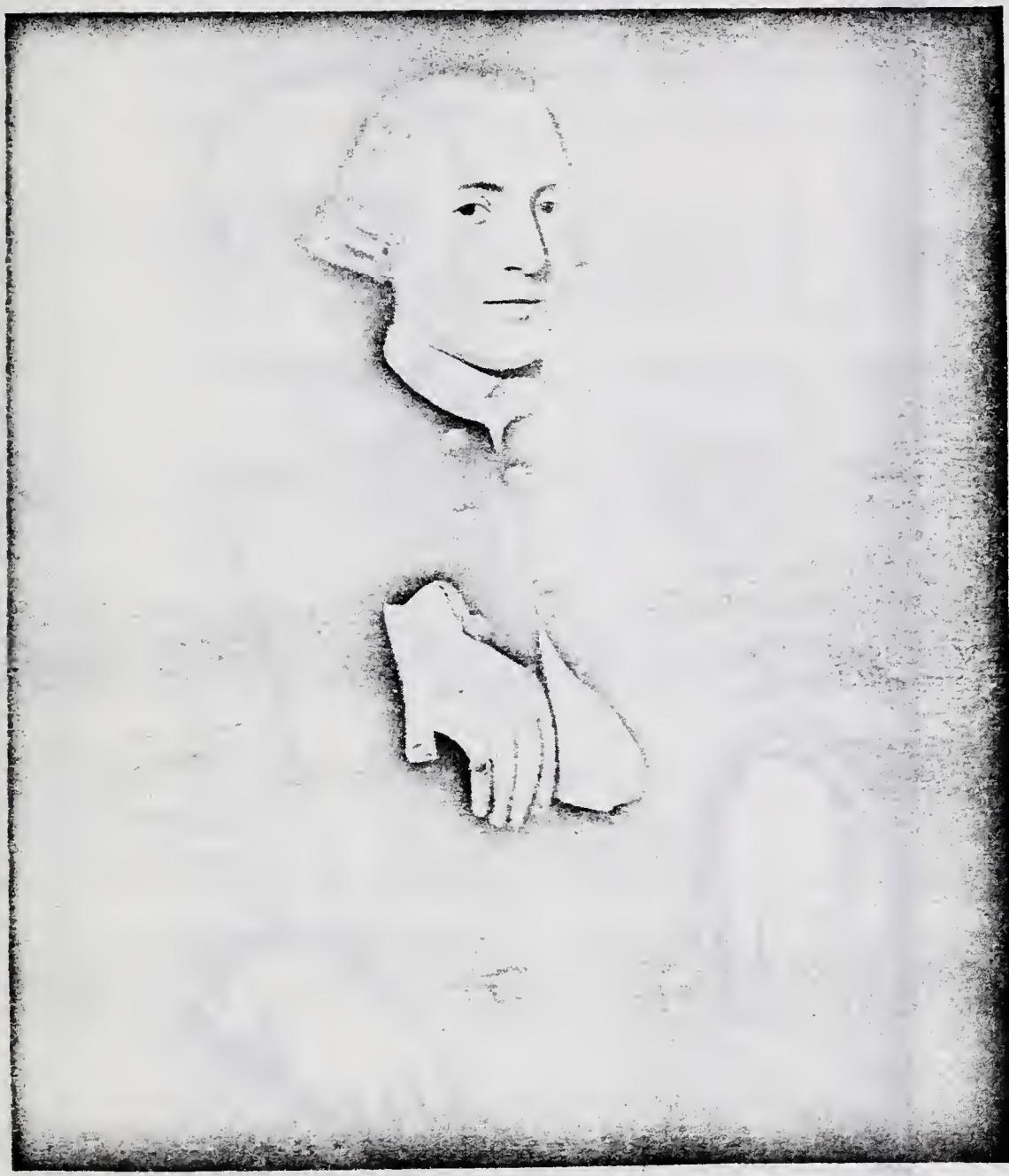
would help him for his pursuers were close at hand. Forgetting the law and only remembering the hunted man, she allowed him to hide in the cellar and refused to know anything of a convict when the authorities arrived. We can only hope that his after life proved that she was right in protecting the man.

John Beekman died in 1843 and his eldest son, John Crosby, inherited the property. He was a bachelor and kept open house with unbounded hospitality and kindness. His gardens were filled with flowers and vegetables which took many prizes at the American Institute Fair, and his stables were large and ready to put up the horses of any number of visitors. There is a story connected with those stables, namely that they were made on the frame of the Beekman Street theatre which was brought there after it was demolished, and it is an interesting question as to whether any of that frame, put up to last as they always were, is still in existence amidst the tenement houses which now cover the spot where the house was burnt to the ground. The Fiftieth Street house was given up as a residence sooner than Rural Cove. The only son of Gerard Beekman, James William, married Abian Milledollar, the daughter of the president of Rutgers College in New Jersey, but neither of his two sons married. In speaking of them we reach a period so late that many of the readers of this must remember those two charming gentlemen, who by their lives proved themselves true descendants of the William Beekman who in his will urged his children to remember that a good name is better than riches or honor.

The second son of John Beekman, William Fenwick, was named for his father's friend, Colonel William Fenwick of South Carolina. He was educated as a physician but he was given his degree in Philadelphia and did not have to go to a foreign university for it. He went to Europe, however, in 1839 and made what was called the Grand Tour in his own carriage. One of the reminders of this trip is the programme of the Eglinton Tournament which was so carefully prepared for and was entirely ruined by a heavy rainstorm. This last William Beekman married Catherine Alexander Neilson. He left five sons, one of whom was Henry R. Beekman, the distinguished Justice of the Supreme Court of New York State.

There are many descendants of the first William Beekman scattered over the country, but very few of the name, so very few that the line in New York seems quite alone, and the con-





ABRAHAM BEEKMAN; SON OF WILLIAM BEEKMAN AND CATHARINE PETERS DE  
LA NOY; BORN AUGUST 4, 1729; DIED OCTOBER 19, 1789; UNMARRIED

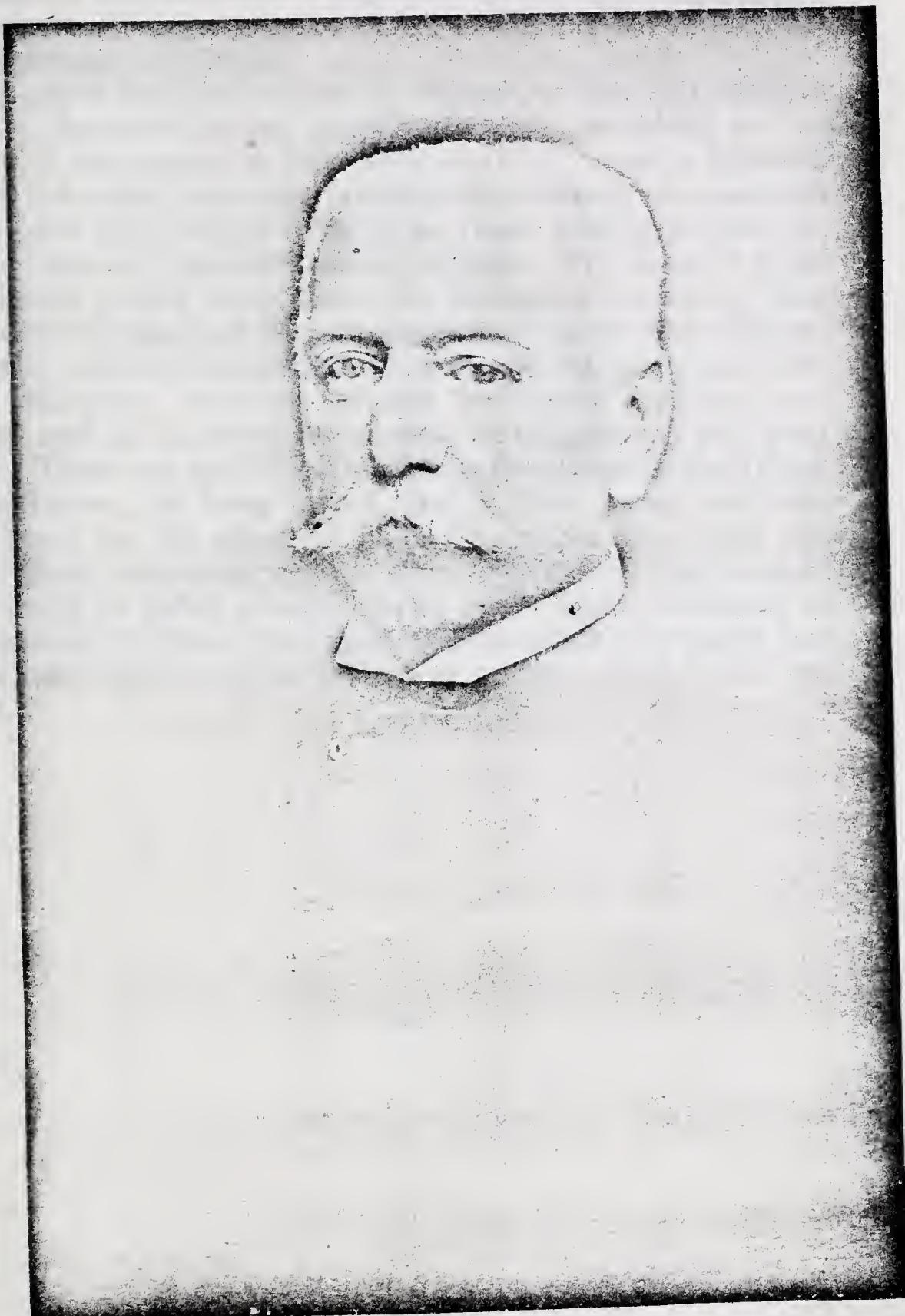




HENRY RUTGERS BEEKMAN; JUSTICE SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK STATE;  
BORN DECEMBER, 1845, DIED NOVEMBER, 1900

*Counsel to the Corporation of the City of New York*





GERARD BEEKMAN, 1902



tinuance of the name there depends on three little boys whom we hope may not grow up as averse to marriage as so many of the Beekmans have been.

This paper has been written by request, so that the story of some of the great landed proprietors might be added to the history of the manors in New York state. It is to be followed by the Schuylers and other families who without the manorial rights have held estates as large as those already written of, for the Order of Colonial Lords of Manors. The name of great proprietors passed away from the Beekmans, however, long ago, with the death of the great grandson of the first William Beekman, who died in Holland a boy of only eighteen, and of his sister Margaret, who left to her Livingston children vast estates, and to the world an example of uprightness and good works. There was much land owned by Beekmans on the Island of Manhattan, on Long Island, and in New Jersey, and one large grant on the shore of Lake Champlain has given the family name to a town not far above Plattsburg, but none of these could be called a large landed estate when compared to that owned by Henry Beekman, and therefore this paper has had to take the form of the history of a name rather than of an estate.

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